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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/526,177	03/15/2000	Takashi Munakata	44084-443	9237
20277	7590	03/18/2005	EXAMINER	
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP 600 13TH STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096			TRAN, DOUGLAS Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	
DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/526,177	MUNAKATA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Douglas Q. Tran	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE on 12/16/04.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 7,8 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 7,8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3)<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. 5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,267 B1).

As to claim 7, Mori teaches an image forming apparatus (i.e., network printer apparatus 20 in fig. 46) capable of being connected to a plurality of external apparatuses (i.e., client 52 in fig. 46 or PC in fig. 5B) and performing image formations based on data sent from the external apparatuses, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of paper ejection trays (i.e. mailbox 51 in fig. 46 includes a plurality of bins) for receiving sheets on which images are formed (col. 29, lines 61-65); and notification means (i.e., the display means or the liquid crystal panels are provided on the side of the bin for notifying the paper name/number “col. 30, lines 50-53”) for notifying a user of a specific one of the paper ejection trays in which a last ejected sheet is present (col. 33, lines 38-40; it is noted that the paper number of the latest paper stored in the bin would include a last sheet which is present), wherein the notification means comprises:

a plurality of notifying units (i.e., the display of liquid crystal panels) respectively disposed on the paper ejection trays (i.e., bins from the mailbox 51 in fig. 46 or 47) or in the vicinity of the paper ejection trays (col. 35, lines 8-11 and 18-21 describes each bin has each display on the liquid crystal panel); and

a controller (i.e., the mailbox controller 20a in fig. 47), connected with the notifying units (col. 34, lines 62-64), for controlling the notifying units including controlling a respective notification unit to communicate an indication notifying the user (col. 34, lines 1-28) that the last ejected sheet is present in the corresponding paper ejection tray (col. 33, lines 38-40 describes that number of the latest paper stored in the bin, which would include a last sheet, is present and is displayed on the LCP of the bin); also, the software for controlling the mailbox “col. 33, line 13” for checking the total number of sheets of printed paper accommodated in the bin, detecting overflow and instructing the bin to be replaced at the time of overflow; and col. 35, lines 28-34 describes that the remaining printed paper is accommodated in the retrieved bin which is replaced the bin having overflowed. Thus, the remaining printed paper, which include a last printed paper, is displayed on the liquid crystal panel of the bin which has replaced the bin “col. 35, lines 30-34”).

As to claim 8, Mori teaches each of said notifying units is a display unit (fig. 43 and col. 30, lines 50-56).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Mar. 15, 2005

Douglas Q. Tran